

GHAZANFAR ALI'S APPEAL TO SHIA VOTERS TO BEWARE OF POLITICAL INTRIGUERS

MR. GHAZANFAR ALI KHAN, the Health Member, in an interview to the Orient Press appealing to Muslims to vote for Muslim League candidates warned his Shia brethren to beware of the political intriguers, who try to create differences between Shias and Sunnis to achieve their own ends.

Regarding the position of the Shias and Sunnis in the Muslim League, Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan said: "Muslims in India are passing through a most critical period of their history. It is needless to emphasise that at the present crucial stage Muslims can hope to ensure an honourable future for themselves in this country only by ranging themselves as a united and solid force behind the All-India Muslim League.

"It will be fatal for Muslims to create unreal sectarian distinctions of Shia and Sunni in the political fight which they are carrying on through the Muslim League. In every election and by-election of the Central and Provincial Legislatures all Muslim voters should vote unanimously for the Muslim League candidates. A by-election is being held in Dera Ghazi Khan district for a seat in the Punjab Legislative Assembly.

"I appeal to all Muslim voters in the constituency concerned, particularly to my Shia brethren to demonstrate their solid support for the Muslim League objective of Pakistan and political independence of the Muslim Nation.

"Certain short-sighted political intriguers who cannot see beyond their personal interests are trying to create differences between Shias and Sunnis in this by-election. My Shia brethren should beware of their machination and must not falter in their whole-hearted support for the League."

KASHMIR ELECTIONS

Mr. Ghazanfar Ali Khan has issued the following statement to the Press: "General elections are being held in Jammu and Kashmir State. In the existing state of affairs the best way for Muslim voters to safeguard their best interests is to give their whole-hearted and unanimous support to the candidates who have been put up by the All-Jammu and Kashmir Muslim Conference. This body is carrying on noble fight for the interests and rights of Muslims in the State.

"I will not be wrong to say that it is the counterpart of the All-India Muslim League in the Kashmir State. I, therefore, appeal to all Muslim voters, particularly to my Shia brethren to vote 'en bloc' for the Muslim Conference candidates".—OPI.

Italy to Face Worse Situation in 1947

ROME, Wednesday. THE Italian Premier, Signor Alcide de Gasperi told the Chamber of Ministers before his departure for America that the situation facing Italy in 1947 is worse than that in 1919, which paved the way for Fascism. Making a last minute appeal to his Cabinet colleagues to maintain a solid front during his absence, Signor de Gasperi deplored the attitude of Socialist and Communist newspapers, which he claimed incited demonstrations and general strikes instead of supporting the Government.

Signor de Gasperi added the Italian Confederation of Labour to use its influence among workers to maintain calm. The first week of the new year appears likely to bring further dislocation in the national life especially in the south where strikes and demonstrations of unemployed against the prohibitive cost of living are planned throughout the province of Calabria.

It is rumoured that there may be a general strike in Rome on January 5. A drive against Rome's black market has forced illegal trading "underground", where have disappeared the extra supplies of rationed goods which gave the Romans their only means of supplementing the meagre official rations.—Reuter.

SEVERE HAIL—STORM IN SYDNEY

SYDNEY, Wednesday. Hundreds of people were injured on Sydney beaches in a severe 10-minute hail-storm today. Hailstones bigger than a man's fist bombarded the city, smashing windows and ripping through car roofs.

From the famous Bondi Beach alone 50 people were sent to hospital in ambulances. At the Sydney sports ground an air raid shelter which was turned into an emergency first aid station was full of casualties while a long queue of injured people waited for attention.

At the height of the storm pigeons crashed to the ground as if caught in an aircraft gun barrage. Serious damage was caused throughout the city.—Reuter.

Women Opposed to The Use of Atom Bomb

AKOLA, Wednesday. "THERE is a burning desire among women of every country to contribute to world peace, and to obtain greater representation at the International conferences for the purpose", said the four British and two American visitors to the 19th session of the All-India Women's Conference held here.

"Women have a definite role to play in international politics", they said at a Press conference, "and, owing to the cementing force of responsibility for children and the home, they are specially qualified to take active part in the deliberations of international assemblies".

The visitors, Lady Pares, Mrs. Hilda Seligman, Mrs. Grace Lankester and her daughter, Miss Dorothy Lankester, as also the American psychiatrist Miss Mary Sweeney and the social worker Miss Elmina R. Lucke, made it clear that they did not mean women should tackle international problems to the exclusion of men.

They added that women everywhere in the world were definitely and unanimously against the use of the Atom Bomb in future.

Asked if the Charter of Indian Women's Rights, if applied to India, would bring Indian women in line with their western contemporaries, the visitors said it would, but it all depended on how the provisions relating to them in the law were implemented. Implementation of the women's rights was far more important than granting them on paper.

Lady Pares, representative of the International Alliance of Women, explaining the work the organisation was doing to create a consciousness among women in countries where there are no women movements at present, said the Alliance proposed to set up travelling commissions to countries.

It was proposed that two or three leaders of women's movements should visit such countries by air and get in touch with small groups of women, by holding public meetings. It was felt that it was by contact with smaller groups that a better understanding and the best results could be obtained. Regional conferences were also being arranged, and it was hoped to hold such a conference in Cairo in January or February.—API.

Be on Your Guards Against British, Says A.F.P.F.I.

RANGOON, Wednesday. A WARNING to the people of Burma to be on their guard against British attempts to cause a split amongst them, was contained in a statement issued by the Anti-Fascist Peoples' Freedom League released here last night. The statement also accused British imperialists of aiming at colonising the frontier areas of the Karenni States with a view to ruining the people of those states economically.

A promise to obtain from Britain independence for the hill tribes, simultaneously with that of Burma, and full freedom for the Karenni States was also contained in the statement.

"In the interim period," the statement added, "a frontier areas' representative must be appointed as advisor for the administration of those areas. In the Constituent Assembly for free Burma, steps will be taken to enable Karenni and the frontier areas to join the Burma Federation."

The statement concluded by saying that "the ultimate decision to do so, however, rests with those areas."—APA.

BENGAL MUSLIM STUDENTS TO DISCUSS EVICTION POLICY

CALCUTTA, Wednesday. Mrs. Roquia Anwar, the Chief Organiser of the Ladies Branch of the Bengal Muslim National Guards in a statement to the press says: "It is most desirable that womenfolk should be organised as disciplined volunteers to establish peace and secure the safety of life, interest and honour of the Muslim women in Bengal.

A Ladies Advisory Board has been set up to arrange to get as many lady volunteers as possible for training at Muslim National Guards (Ladies Branch).—OPI.

Spain Trying For Economic Relations With Arab States

BAGHDAD Monday, (Delayed). A USUALLY reliable source of foreign affairs has disclosed that Spanish representatives abroad have been trying to establish economic and political relations with the Arab countries.

The recent United Nations resolution caused suspension of further efforts. It is known that Spain tried to pay for the establishment of such relations by satisfying Arab aspirations in Spanish Morocco. "Efforts have not been broken down altogether, but are suspended until the United Nations attitude clears up," the source said.

Baghdad sources are inclined to believe that attempts to form a direct Arab-Turkish bloc may be abandoned in the face of difficulties and opposition. It is believed that efforts are now directed towards improving Turkish relations with every individual Arab country. These sources said that this explains the coming visit of King Abdullah to Ankara and visits of Turkish Economic delegations to Arab countries.—APA.

Malaya Union's Protest Against Govt's Circular

LONDON, Wednesday. R. WILLIAM CHARLES CROCKER, solicitor representing the interests of Mr. Anthony Brooke, Rajah of Sarawak upto the time of cession of the country to the Crown, has received a cable of protest from the Malay National Union at Kuching, capital of the New Colony, against the terms of a circular issued by the Governor of Sarawak to all Government officers.

It states that on Christmas day the five Government servants sent a letter to each head of their office stating that they could not continue their service with the Government under the conditions provided in the circular.

The circular, according to the cable, included the following clauses—"Since there is no question of any change in the present regime or any reversion to a rule, the Government will not permit or tolerate any association of its servants with any activities designed to revive the question of cession.

"There will be no victimisation for speech or act of any Government servant in the past relating to the question of cession, but each Government servant must now make up his mind whether he wishes to serve the present Government loyally and faithfully or not.

A ban was placed upon his projected visit to Sarawak by the Governor who is upheld by the British Government. He did not learn of the ban till he reached Manila by air.—Reuter.

Chinese Students' Anti-American Demonstration

SHANGHAI, Wednesday. ABOUT 40,000 students from 20 universities paraded the main streets of Shanghai today protesting against the alleged raping of a Chinese girl by an American marine on Christmas night.

Traffic was interrupted for hours as the demonstrators, who carried placards and cloth banners demanding withdrawal of United States' troops from China. They shouted anti-American slogans on the pavement. The city was plastered with pink, blue, white and green paper slips with such slogans as: "China not an American colony and get American atrocity."

Several Shanghai universities yesterday declared a strike as a protest against what they described as "an American atrocity."

Students also demonstrated in the northern University City of Tientsin where United States' marines were afterwards seen hunting the town for anti-American posters to keep souvenir.—Reuter.

CASH WORTH Rs. 125,000 RECOVERED

(By 'Dawn' Correspondent) PATNA, Wednesday: Cash and jewellery worth Rs. 125,000 have been recovered at village Mohsinpur, in Futwah district through the efforts of the Muslim League volunteers corps consisting of men from the Bazm-e-Pakistan, Delhi, Dera Ismail Khan and Kohat.

CHINESE WORKERS' STRIKE HONG KONG, Wednesday: Chinese workers striking for wage increase ended many Kowloon cafes to close today and some observers said that if the dispute is not settled quickly it may spread to Hong Kong. The matter has been referred to the Hong Kong Labour Office.—APA.

Comprehensive Agrarian Reforms in India Urged

KARACHI, Wednesday. TWO fold basic programme for stabilising the agricultural economy of India as the fundamental basis of India's post-war planning was suggested by Sir Manilal Nanvati, President of the All-India Agricultural Economic Conference, summing up the views of the conference in a statement.

He said "the fundamental problem in Indian agriculture is the removal of the pressure of population which has been increasing since the last hundred years. The immediate task of Indian administration is to remove the pressure and raise the status of agriculture as a paying industry. There are two ways by which this can be done; by finding other resources of steady employment at remunerative rates under healthy conditions for uneconomic holders and landless labourers and secondly the readjustment of agriculture within itself.

'ISOLATED MEASURES'

The measures under the first method are well-known and need not be repeated. The measures under the latter must be through comprehensive agrarian reforms under which the latter must have enough land, the produce from which should go to him alone and nobody else.

Unless some such measures were adopted, he said, isolated measures like debt legislation, abolition of zamindari, the tenancy reforms, and financial reorganisation would not bear fruits as hitherto. All developments must centre round the land reforms and man-reform and the condition precedent to this was administrative reforms.—API.

Qayum's Bill to Improve Islamia College Finances

PESHAWAR, Wednesday. KHAN ABDUL QAYUM KHAN, Leader of the Opposition in the Frontier Assembly has given notice of a Bill on the lines of the Badshahi Mosque Cess Act passed in the Punjab Assembly with a view to improving the finances of the Islamia College, Peshawar, the Premier Muslim institution in the N.W.F.P.

According to the Bill every Muslim in the N.W.F.P., who pays a land revenue of Rs. 5 or more will pay a cess of three pice per rupee in addition to land revenue. This cess, which is intended to be in force for two years, will go to the funds of the Islamia College controlled by its Managing Committee.

Khan Abdul Qayum has also sought the permission of the Governor to introduce the Bill in the Frontier Assembly.—API.

JOINT TRAINING OF ANGLO-U.S. AIR FORCES

WASHINGTON, Tuesday: Discussions are reported to be taking place with a view to a joint training of RAF and United States' Air Forces under the Anglo-American Arms Standardisation Agreement recently announced in London and Washington.

The proposal is understood to be to post groups of U.S. airmen to RAF stations and similar RAF groups to American stations. Each group will be of thirty men.

The schooling programme will be standardised and a joint attack will be made on the problem of super-sonic flight and details of aeronautical research may also be pooled. There is no information whether or not atom bomb dropping will form part of the instruction to be given to RAF groups, but it is assumed that the technique will be thought even though bomb secrets will remain an American monopoly.—Globe.

FREEING OF BLOCKED ASSETS IN U. S.

WASHINGTON, Wednesday: The United States Treasury announced last night the freeing of blocked assets in the United States of persons in China, the Netherlands East Indies, French Indo-China, Turkey and non-European colonies and territories of liberated countries.

These assets have been frozen since June, 1941, when France was falling before the invading German armies.

A U.S. Treasury survey in 1941 gave the following values: China—357,000,000 dollars; Netherlands East Indies—158,000,000 dollars; Indo-China—25,000,000 dollars; Turkey—40,000,000 dollars. The assets of colonies and similar territories were termed insignificant.

The Treasury said last night that it had no current estimates. Restrictions over current transaction in those areas were lifted a year ago.—APA.

DUKE OF GLOUCESTER SINGAPORE, Wednesday: The Singapore Government announced this morning that the Duke of Gloucester, retiring as Governor-General of Australia, is due to arrive in Singapore on January 16 en route to the U.K. He will leave the following morning.—APA.

"Scotsman's" Plea For Scaling Down Sterling Balances

LONDON, Wednesday. THE object of the British Delegation to the proposed Indian sterling balance talks will "evidently" be to obtain as large scaling down as possible and a reasonable funding of the bulk of the remainder leaving relatively a small portion of the debt for immediate release, "says the "Scotsman" in a lengthy editorial today.

The paper points out that internal and current balances automatically released for current transactions.

"An objective Indian approach to the coming negotiations, therefore, is required not only as a matter of equity, but also in the interest of India's own finances," the paper adds.—Globe.

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